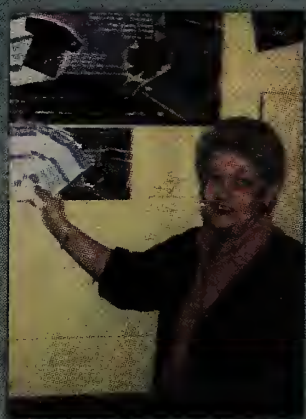


SPOKE

Conestoga College, Kitchener

March 19, 2001

What's Inside



Contest's fine print needs close read.
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COMMENTARY
School shootings no longer top news
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Harris makes suggestions to board

By Dwight Irwin

Mike Harris, vice-president of academics for Conestoga Students Inc., outlined things he thought the Conestoga College board of governors should consider regarding student government, leadership roles and relationships with students to the board at its meeting, on Feb. 26.

He placed the ideas into four categories: partnerships and fostering leadership, transferability of credits and standards, communication and affordability/accessibility.

Under the partnership category, Harris said the college should look at how it fosters leadership and how it works with its student government.

"Colleges must work with their student governments to provide and support leadership opportunities to students," Harris told the board.

Some ways the college could show its partnership with student government is to offer free tuition for those who participate with student government, Harris said.

Some of his other ideas in this category are to include students on all college committees and activities, sponsor students at external conferences and events and create rewards and incentives for extra-curricular involvement.



Mike Harris

Harris told the board the college must maintain its transferability of credits, from institution to institution and standards to help ensure students are being given fair credit for programs. That way students who are either transferring to or from Conestoga will be given equal opportunity as other students.

The college must also collect

feedback from students, who have been transferring, to ensure other students who transfer to another post-secondary school can do so smoothly.

Under the communication category, Harris stressed the college should be constantly seeking student feedback, other than the Key Performance Indicators.

KPIs are annual surveys, which establish benchmarks of excellence at Ontario's 25 colleges. They are based on independent surveys completed by students, graduates and employers.

Conestoga has maintained a No. 1 position two years in a row in the KPI surveys.

"Colleges must work with their student governments to provide and support leadership opportunities to students."

*Mike Harris,
vice-president of academics
at Conestoga College*

"We need to encourage student feedback, outside the KPI process and respond to student concerns in a timely manner. But this can only work if students feel comfortable bringing their concerns forward," Harris told the board.

He then explained how the college should revise the way it manages and responds to student issues like appeals, complaints, general feedback and guidance. Policies and procedures should also be reviewed to ensure they are valid and not outdated.

Harris sympathized with the college because of the funding cut-backs it has faced from the Ontario government, but he stressed the college should freeze tuition fees.

"Between 1990-91 and 2000-2001, tuition fees have increased 132 per cent. Funding is needed if we are to ensure college tuitions are affordable and programs are of high quality."

Harris gives up his seat as student governor when he graduates from Conestoga in April.

A celebratory toast



College president John Tibbits, right, and Bill Jeffrey, dean of the school of health sciences and community services as well as ISO management representative for the college, toast the college's completion of the final phase in its goal to become completely ISO certified, at a mini celebration in the Blue cafeteria on March 7.

(Photo by Kirsten Fifield)

College honours co-op students

By Reni Nicholson

Two Conestoga College students were nominated for the 2000 Co-op Student of the Year Award for their outstanding work.

Mary Ellen Horne, a second-year food and beverage management student at the Waterloo campus, and Stacy Reed, a third-year business administration accounting student at the Doon campus, are being recognized for their achievement at the college and in the community.

"This award is to honour the student who wins," said Linda Hart, co-op advisor. "But we're honouring Conestoga's winners."

Horne, who is completing her work term with Ontario Waterway Cruises as a chef, was shocked and a little surprised when she found out she was nominated by her employer for the award.

"I thought wow, they really think that highly of me," she said. "I knew they liked me, but I was impressed."

She said the co-op program has given her the opportunity to do something different.

"The program benefits the student, the employer and the school."

Horne has accepted a position as head cook with Ontario Waterway Cruises and plans to begin the position in the summer, but she

doesn't know if that's where she would like to stay.

"I want to cook and work with food, but I don't know if I'd want to stay with the cruise line."

Volunteerism is key in Horne's life. She gives much of her time to the Knox North Easthope Presbyterian Church in Stratford. For the past 10 years she has also contributed her talents showing cows locally and nationally as part of a 4-H dairy club.

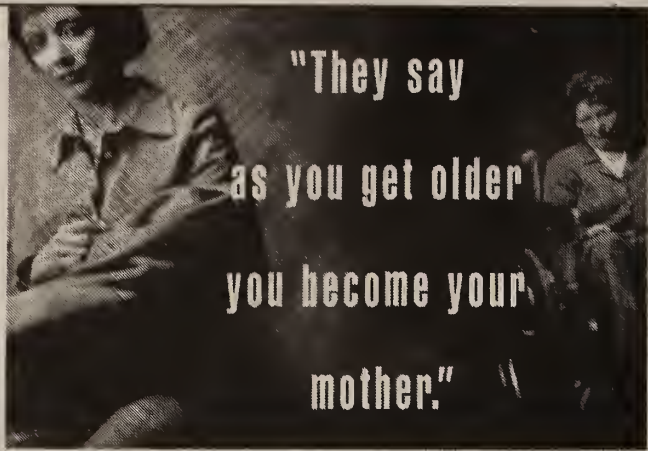
Reed, who has spent two work terms at Home Hardware's head office in St. Jacobs and continues working there while she attends classes, was extremely honoured when she found out she was nominated for the award.

"I felt privileged that my employer would say such great things about me," said Reed about the letter of recommendation her employer wrote.

Reed plans to stay with Home Hardware as an accountant assistant for her third work term, but doesn't know if she'll be returning after she completes college.

"Home Hardware has offered to pay for me to get my Certified General Accountant certificate, but I'm getting married in the summer."

With a wedding date set for June 2, Reed is unsure of whether she'll stay home and have a family or start a career.



"I hope to God it's not true."

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Co-op raffle has prizes galore

By Reni Nicholson

In celebration of National Co-operation Week, Conestoga College's co-op education services has an office full of prizes to raffle away to co-op students between March 19 and 23.

"I'm running out of room for me," laughed Violet Boutillier, a co-op adviser/employer liaison. "Pretty soon I'll be out in the hallway." Boutillier has been collecting boxes of prizes that have been donated by programs at the college and local businesses.

Some of the prizes include:

■ Two gift baskets from Pioneer Park Pharmacy.

■ A gift pack of coffee from Tim Hortons.

■ Two sweatshirts and two golf shirts from the City of Kitchener.

■ An alumni services golf shirt.

■ A three-month membership to the A.R. Kaufman YMCA in

Kitchener.

■ A dinner for two from the Waterloo campus dining room.

■ Various prizes from the college bookstore and the wood-working programs at the Ontario Woodworking Centre.

■ A gym bag full of prizes from the co-op services staff.

Prizes include coffee, gift baskets and dinner for two.

Boutillier said everyone has been very generous and willing to donate to the campaign for prizes to give away to co-op students.

"We're doing this to recognize the students and we've had a great response," she said.

The draws will take place during National Co-op Week, with two draws taking place each day.

On Friday any leftover prizes will be raffled off.

Nine students nominated

Continued from Page 1

She spends her spare time at the Elmira Pentecostal Church helping with a kids club and tutoring, and plays for a women's hockey team.

Criteria considered for nominations included employment performance; academic performance; contribution to extra-curricular activities at school; contribution to the community-at-large; and contribution to co-operative education.

A letter informing employers of Conestoga co-op students of the opportunity was sent out in the last year and in response nine co-op students were nominated by their employers for the award, but each institution in Canada can only nominate two students.

Therefore, a selection committee made up of Mary Wright, manager of student employment, co-op and alumni services and Monica Himmelman, alumni services officer, had the task of narrowing the competition.



Horne



Reed

Clarification

In the candidates for CSI election story which ran in the March 12 edition of Spoke, Jon Olinski's full name and the fact that he is a third-year business management student running for CSI president, was left out. Spoke apologizes for the omission.

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Carol Seto, dietitian

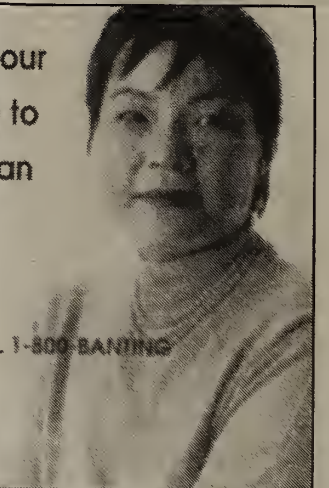
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Contest's odds are deceiving

Must be picked from a second draw to win laptop computer

By Reni Nicholson

Contestants for this month's contest in the cafeterias at Conestoga College must read further than the ballot box to determine the odds of winning.

The fine print on the contest rules sheet states that contestants whose names are selected for the first draw will have the chance to be entered into the draw for the grand prize.

The contest that officially began Feb. 19, but started at Conestoga March 5 and ran until March 16, advertises that two winners will receive Modrobe T-shirts by ice-burg.com. Each winner will then be eligible to enter the final draw to win the \$5,000 grand prize, which includes an IBM ThinkPad A20 with an Intel mobile Pentium III processor, Altec Lansing five-piece computer speaker system and a carrying case.

The contest is open to any of the patrons of up to 105 participating Compass Group Canada Ltd. outlets.

The odds for winning a T-shirt at Conestoga are double that of most other institutions because the college has two accounts, Dooners and

the main cafeteria, with Compass Group Canada Limited. Contestants at the college would also have a better chance of winning the grand prize because of this, but the college cafeterias didn't run the contest for its allotted time.

The signs posted in Dooners and in the main cafeteria state that a combo must be purchased in order to receive a ballot.

"The contest rules say that no purchase is necessary, but to get a ballot someone must write to the company to request one."

*John Kast,
cafeteria manager*

Valid combos as stated by posted signs are any baked good and a large hot beverage; all soups and a sandwich; stir-fry and a beverage; any Harvey's combo; any wrap or deli sandwich and a beverage; and any pizza and a beverage.

"The contests rules say that no

purchase is necessary, but to get a ballot someone must write to the company to request one," said John Kast, cafeteria manager at the college. "It's just to make it more difficult to get a free ballot."

But if somebody wants a ballot and he/she isn't purchasing anything, the cafeteria staff will give them one.

"It's no big deal," said Kast.

At the end of the promotion, one name will be randomly drawn from each of the participating outlets. Each of those contestants will be declared a finalist and will receive a T-shirt. Conestoga will draw four finalists, because the college has four T-shirts to give away.

For the grand prize draw, only those finalists who were selected to win a T-shirt have a chance. Finalists from all of the Compass Group Canada Ltd. retailers will be entered into the final draw for the IBM laptop.

Conestoga cafeterias usually run two promotions a year. The next one will be held during Nutrition Week, March 19 to 23. The cafeterias will be posting and distributing pamphlets to students regarding nutrition awareness during the contest.



Cafeteria cashier Carol Duby shows the ballots for a contest to win a laptop.

(Photo by Reni Nicholson)

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A DIVISION OF Bell Globemedia

Human rights must top agenda

College's agreement with China sends wrong message

Conestoga College president John Tibbits should have thought about the message he was sending on behalf of the college before signing an agreement with Heilongjiang International Tourism and Business College to open a satellite campus in China.

The agreement signed on Feb. 13 creates a new division of Heilongjiang College. Chinese students accepted into the Conestoga division will pursue a one-year English language studies program.

The students will then proceed into the first two years of study in business administration/accounting or business administration/management studies. Students will complete the final year of their studies at Doon campus.

The agreement was signed just one day after Amnesty International said that torture and ill-treatment of prisoners and detainees is widespread and systemic in China and the government is not doing enough to fight it.

The London-based human rights group went on to say that officials perpetrating these abuses included not only police

and prison officers, but also tax collectors, family planners, neighbourhood watch groups and business security guards.

On Feb. 26, just two weeks after Tibbits signed the agreement, the U.S. State Department's annual report said China's poor human rights record worsened during 2000 and that the government's respect for religious

freedom deteriorated as it cracked down on Christian groups and Tibetan Buddhists.

By signing an agreement to open a satellite campus in China, Tibbits is sending the message that human rights are not a big concern at Conestoga College.

As an institute of higher learning, the college's top priority should be to protect the rights of an individual to have the freedom to speak his/her mind without fear of persecution.

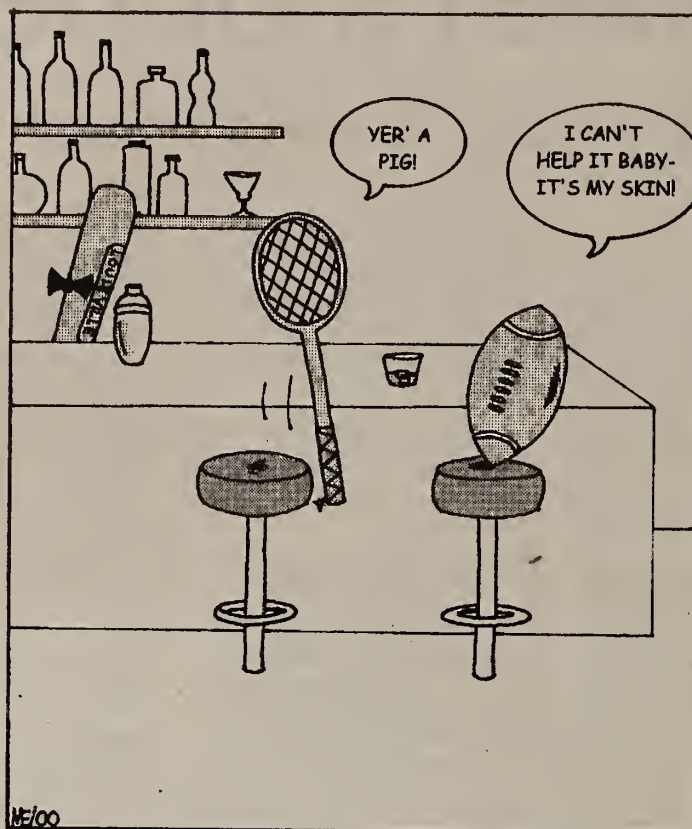
Ensuring these rights at Conestoga is not enough. The college should place these rights at the top of the agenda when signing agreements with other countries.

In the March 12 edition of Spoke, Tibbits is quoted as saying that he wouldn't advise people to go over there (China) and challenge the political system or the fundamental premises of Chinese society because it would be asking for trouble, just like anywhere else.

By signing an agreement with a country that Tibbits himself has admitted still has problems with human rights issues, Tibbits is sending the message that Conestoga will look the other way.

Chinese students should not be punished for acts committed by their government but Conestoga College must take a stand against the repression of human rights, by forgoing all business deals with the Chinese government, until their human rights record improves:

When used sporting goods date.



Shootings downplayed

By Reni Nicholson

It's turned into a competition of who can top the mass killings of 1999's Columbine high school shooting. It seems as though one must kill in mass numbers, say 12 or more to get news coverage.

The news networks received a lot of flak after the excessive coverage of the school shooting at Columbine. In response, the networks have cut airtime for the increasingly popular school shoot-'em-up phenomenon, but the public knowledge of such aggressive occurrences has lessened because of the lack of media play.

In 10 years, there have been 19 reports of gunfire at middle and high schools in North America, but none have come close to the devastation that the Columbine shootings left behind.

Since the Columbine incident, there have been eight high school shootings in Canada and the United States, totalling six deaths and 11 injured. These numbers don't compare to the 12 dead and 23 injured on one occasion at Columbine, but neither does the news media coverage received for each incident.

The shooting at Santana high school in Santee, Calif., on March 5, which involved Charles Andy Williams, the 15-year-old gunman, the two students shot dead and the 13 students injured, came in second in the race for media attention.

The incident was broadcast second on the local 6 p.m. television newscast after the storm of the century that wasn't on March 5.

On April 20, 1999, topping all newscasts and gaining the majority of front page coverage in newspapers across North America were grim pictures of frantic and sobbing students and faculty and disturbing pictures of chaos at what could have been and looked like the high school down the street. How many of these pictures are too many?

It has become a game of comparisons. Which school shooting was the worst and most shocking and which deserved the most publicity. Because of this, networks not giving the attention school shootings deserve, and children, teenagers, parents, teachers and all of North America don't have the chance to hear about each and every school shooting. Not knowing will just lead to ignorance and increased

repetition of school shootings.

Most North Americans will have those pictures instilled in their minds for sometime. Not because they were there or because the newspapers did such a good job of reporting on the scene, but because CNN broadcast live from the Columbine campus for about three days. In response to the public outrage at their coverage, CNN has since downplayed similar occurrences. The pictures of Columbine are not enough to instill the knowledge needed to make the public aware of the dangers of sending children to school each morning with the possibility that gunfire may breakout that day in their school.

What would it take to get the publicity now? The two deaths at Santana weren't enough. It takes a killing of more than 12 to get the world's attention because CNN and other news networks have reduced coverage of such events so as not to glamorize this type of occurrence.

Parents and school officials need to recognize that acknowledgment of school shootings can only be beneficial, and that these shootings won't stop because the press has stopped giving them in-depth attention.

SPOKE

Keeping Conestoga College connected

SPOKE is published and produced weekly by the journalism students of Conestoga College.

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Bar's name to be decided by students

Surveys will be located throughout the college; best suggestion to be chosen

By Dwight Irwin

Conestoga's new bar has tapped its first keg.

In a small ceremony on March 9, the college showed off its newest feature, located in the concourse of the recreation centre.

Prizes were also given to students who filled out survey forms. The rec centre had distributed 8,500 surveys to determine what facilities people use at the rec centre and what improvement they would like to see.

Heather Craig, a first-year LASA student, won a fridge, compliments of Molson Breweries, Jeff Foster, a first-year accounting student, won a hockey bag and a sweater and Nicole Caldwell won a quartz wooden desk clock.

Tony Martin, development manager for athletics and the recreation centre, praised staff at the rec centre for their hard work and dedication, in making it possible for the new pub to open on time.

"(Recreation centre maintenance manager) Peter Schlei and his crew have been fabulous. They've really gone above the call of duty in making sure this thing got ready in time," Martin said.

The new bar has yet to be given a name. Martin said he is leaving the name of the bar up to students.

Flyers have been distributed throughout the college and students can return their suggestions to the recreation centre. The best suggestion will become the name of Conestoga's new pub.

A ping-pong table, pool table and video games are also situated in the concourse with the new bar. There will also be three televisions to add to the pub atmosphere.

Tables have been set up in the concourse and along the windows overlooking the gymnasium and ice surface to allow bar patrons to enjoy watching Conestoga's varsity teams play.

The bar also features a revised menu, which offers hot dogs and a new sandwich menu, to go along with the alcohol it serves.

"The food is going to be a lot better," Martin said.

The bar's hours are 11 a.m. to 11 p.m., Monday to Saturday. Martin said the bar might stay open later than 11 p.m. if business is good.

With the bar now located in the concourse, the fitness centre will relocate to the room where the Condor Roost was previously. It's slated to open in September.

That opens up the former fitness centre area for more specialized programs like self-defence, Tai chi, aerobics, karate, judo, yoga and boxing. Each program will have personal trainers from outside the college.

During the week of March 19, free workshops will be held to give students the opportunity to see what each program has to offer. Times for workshops are posted at the recreation centre.



Tony Martin, left, development manager for athletics and the recreation centre, presents first-year LASA student Heather Craig with a fridge, courtesy of Molson Breweries. Jeff Foster, middle right, a first-year accounting student, receives a hockey bag and a sweater, courtesy of the Toronto Maple Leafs, from Peter Schlei, the maintenance manager of the recreation centre. Missing is Nicole Caldwell, who won a quartz wooden desk clock. The students won the prizes for filling out recreation centre surveys, which were posted around the college.

(Photo by Dwight Irwin)

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New CBSA executive elected

By Jody Andruszkiewicz

It took less than 60 minutes to elect a new executive for the Conestoga Business Students Association on March 8.

Class representatives elected the incoming executive, though only two positions – president and treasurer – for the election were contested. Candidates for the other four positions on the CBSA were acclaimed to their positions.

The incoming president is Joe Bentley. Currently, Bentley, 24, serves as the vice-president of the CBSA.

During his speech, the second-year computer programmer analyst (CP/A) student said he wants to improve the CBSA for next year.

One of the initiatives Bentley said he wants to work on is having seminars for business students where guest speakers would come in and speak to students about what's going on in the world of business.

Bentley defeated first-year CP/A student Jordan Gage to win his seat as president of the CBSA.

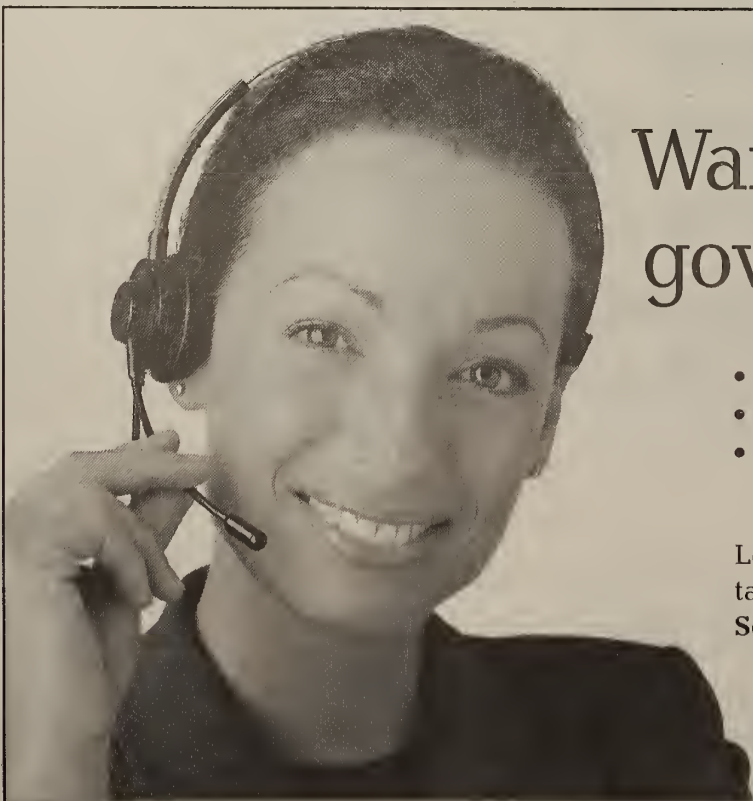
The seat for vice-president went uncontested to Ben Mills. A first-year CP/A student, Mills, 21, said one of his goals is to get the word out about the CBSA so more class representatives attend more meetings.

"The CBSA is not some acronym for an answer to a trivia question," he said, saying that executives on the CBSA have to go to the first year classes and talk up the organization.

Jessika Kunkle, currently running the promotions portfolio for the CBSA, was acclaimed to the same position.

Kunkle, a second-year accounting student, said she wants to come in during the summer to set up major events.

Continued on Page 7



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Four students acclaimed to jobs

Continued from Page 6

One of the problems Kunkle outlined in her speech was that the timing for events was off. She mentioned the beach party and said even though free leis were given away on the Monday of the week of the party, by the time the day of the party arrived on a Thursday, the beach party was forgotten about.

Kunkle, 24, also said it was hard being thrown into her job after she took over the position.

In the other contested spot on the CBSA executive, Emily Horne, 20, defeated incumbent Matthew Lavert to be elected as the new treasurer for the CBSA.

A second-year accounting student, Horne said she needed to be more involved at school and in her position, she said she hoped she could be able to improve student life.

During her speech, Horne said one of her goals was to keep things up to date.

First-year CP/A student Jerry Roux was acclaimed to the communications position with the CBSA. The 20-year-old Roux delivered a light-hearted speech but said he felt he had strong communication skills and is a solid team worker.

"All joking aside," he said, "I know when to get down to work

and be serious."

For the position of computer liaison, incumbent Adam Kowalyk, 21, was acclaimed to his position.

The second-year CP/A student said he was really looking forward to spending a full year with the CBSA executive and that he was also looking forward to getting more class reps out to CBSA meetings.

In his speech, Kowalyk also said one of his goals was to finish the CBSA Web site and bring more traffic to the site to generate some cash inflow.

He also said he wanted to work with computer services to get better computer upgrades for the CBSA.



The new CBSA executive (back, left to right): Emily Horne, Ben Mills, Joe Bentley, Jessika Kunkle, Jerry Roux and (front) Adam Kowalyk.

(Photo by Jody Andruszkiewicz)

COUNSELLOR'S CORNER: A Healthy Lifestyle

The pressures of school can easily cause students to lose the balance between taking care of themselves and the need to put their best efforts into succeeding academically.

School, part-time jobs, family and relationships all make demands on us which can cause stress and stress-related illnesses. But there are ways to maintain our health and keep an equilibrium between competing demands on our time and energy. Scheduling in time for self-care may mean reserving several hours a week for a fitness activity we enjoy. We need friends we can talk to about personal matters and daily life, and people to just "hang out" with and do something purely for fun. We need to feel comfortable in being alone, with time for relaxation and quiet reflection.

Getting eight hours of sleep nightly, eating at least one hot, balanced meal daily, maintaining appropriate body weight and monitoring our use of alcohol, caffeine and tobacco are choices that will help us live longer and prevent illness.

Living a healthy lifestyle will also help now, by boosting concentration, memory and stamina. Having a balanced, healthy lifestyle helps us feel more relaxed, in control of the present and our future direction.

A Message from Student Services (Room 2B02)

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“And this year’s award goes to ...”

Conestoga students have mixed opinions on myriad of awards shows

By Jody Andruszkiewicz

Everywhere you look, in the newspapers, on the radio and especially on the television, there is a woman barely clothed with some well-dressed man following her down a long red carpet.

That means its awards season and the world is waiting to hear who has just won something for being the best at what they do.

During a random survey of students at the Doon campus of Conestoga College on March 8, student opinions regarding the



Durdle

myriad of awards show that hit the airwaves during February and March was mixed.

Mike Durdle, a third-year broadcasting student, said he watches awards shows because there's always something interesting going on, from celebrities in conflict (the Eminem and Christina Aguilera and conflict at the 2000 Grammy Awards over lyrics in Eminem's songs) to what celebrities are wearing.

Durdle also said he watches the awards shows because he's in the broadcasting program.

Second-year police foundations



McCormick

student Deanna McCormick said she doesn't watch these shows because she's not interested in watching them.

She also said doesn't have cable so she can't watch them.

“Even if I did have cable,” she said, “I still wouldn't watch them.”

Tim Lichti, a third-year marketing student, said he'll watch bits and pieces of an awards show, but not the entire thing.

“I'm kind of curious to see movie stars do crazy things.”

Lichti also said he likes to see bands perform at these shows.

Kathleen Deschamps said she watches awards shows because



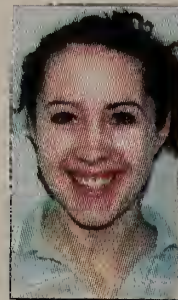
Lichti

they are interesting.

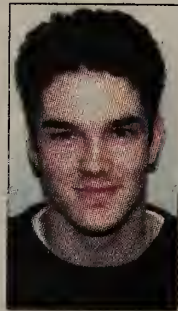
The first-year journalism student said awards shows are an escape from the stresses of real life.

“I love seeing what's new in fashion,” she said.

Andrew Hill, a second-year management studies student, said he doesn't necessarily watch awards shows, but rather he flicks between the shows and anything else that's



Deschamps



Hill

on the television at the time.

He said awards shows get pretty boring and are stacked so it is easy to guess who will win.

“It's a bunch of hoopla,” Hill said. “It's a media circus.”

Tracy Evans, current vice-president of student life for Conestoga Students Inc., said she doesn't watch awards shows all that much.

The second-year management studies student said the reason she does watch them is to see who's the most naked.

“The only thing entertaining is what they (celebrities) wear,” she said.

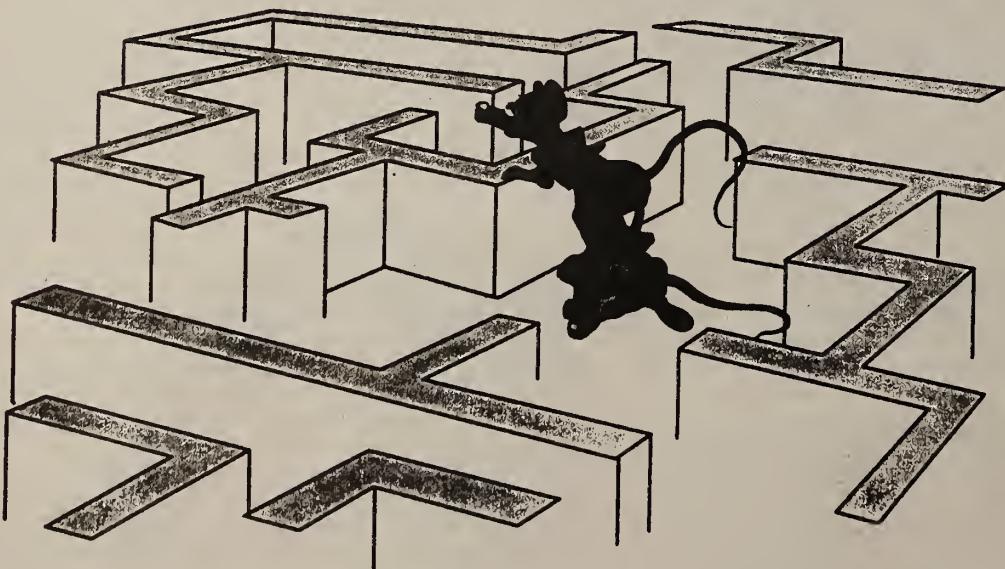


Evans



IMPORTANT REMINDER

**Application deadline to request tutoring
Is April 1, 2001**



Don't get caught in a maze, a tutor may be able to help you through the semester

**Applications available in Student Services
Rm. 2B02**

Condors compete in soccer regionals

By Reni Nicholson

Conestoga College's indoor soccer teams participated in regional tournaments on March 9 and 10.

The men's team showed their skills, winning three of four games at Redeemer University College in Ancaster, while the women's team couldn't get the winning edge during Friday and Saturday's meet at Canadore College in North Bay.

The men lost their first game 6-3 to St. Clair College on Friday, though Jamie Scott scored two goals and Peter Maansson scored one.

The playing system he had set out for the game wasn't working, coach Geoff Johnstone said.

Johnstone said the Condors had to dig deep after losing the first game to come back in the second to beat the host team, Redeemer, 7-2.

Oliver Kapilas scored three times, while Scott shined through again in this game with another two goals. Ivaca Ambramovic and Sherif Sherefali also scored.

Saturday's first game saw the Condors win 5-1 against Mohawk College, with yet another two goals from Scott. Rob Dietz, Maansson and Lev Sherifal each contributed a point towards the Condors' win.

In the final game against Niagara, the Condors nudged their way to a 3-1 win with goals from

Dietz, Maansson and Alfred Maikano.

“(The team) had a lot of heart and spirit this weekend. I'm really pleased with how they did.”

Jamie Scott and Oliver Kopilas were star players scoring over half of the team's goals in the tournament.

The women's team started off even with a 1-1 tie against the home team, Canadore. Melinda Wilkinson scored the lone Condors goal.

The referee was calling a free kick rule that isn't a regular ruling.

“The ruling gave the game a slow stop-and-start pace. We had maybe five minutes of play because of the rule,” she said.

The rule was omitted after Den Haan and a coach from another team argued it.

Nipissing defeated the Condors 2-0 in the women's second game and they lost their third game to Humber College 8-2. Teresa Hussey and Vanessa Laye scored for the Condors.

Den Haan said the Condors gave their best effort and played their best all weekend during the first half of the game against Humber.

She said she knew Humber would be the team to beat going into the tournament.

“A few unlucky bounces and a missed penalty shot can really cost you a game.”

Attention: Native and Metis Students

I would like to hear from you. I am researching the need for cultural and educational services for our Native and Metis students. Please drop by room 2A109 to pick up a questionnaire or e-mail me at knixon@conestogac.on.ca.

Thanks!! Kelly Nixon, College Counsellor